

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05  
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02  
OMB-01 DOE-15 /123 W

-----050409 080050Z /75

P R 072211Z APR 78

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1581

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0905

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD EEWT CU UR

SUBJ: SOVIETS SIGN 1978 TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CUBA

REF: A. HAVANA 678, B. HAVANA 872, C. HAVANA 820

1. GRANMA, APRIL 7, ANNOUNCES THAT LONG-DELAYED 1978 CUBAN SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED PREVIOUS DAY IN MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO SOVIET VICE-MINISTER OF FROEIGN TRADE KUZMIN, 1978 VALUE OF TRADE WILL EXCEED 4 BILLION RUBLES - THUS BECOMING THE LARGEST SOVIET-CUBAN TRADE AGREEMENT IN HISTORY (A 500 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE TRADE LEVEL TEN YEARS AGO). (COMMENT: 1977 SOVIET-CUBAN TRADE TOTALLED 3 BILLION, 335 MILLION RUBLES - SEE HAVANA 679. SINCE PRICE OF SOVIET PETROLEUM TO CUBA IS APPARENTLY BEING FROZEN AT 1977 LEVEL - SEE HAVANA 656, AND GIVEN MAJOR IMPORTANCE THIS WILL HAVE UNDER CUBAN-SOVIET PRICING FORMULA IN STABILIZING PRICE OF CUBAN PRODUCTS, MAJOR PORTION OF ENVISAGED TRADE INCREASE WILL CONSIST OF INCREASE IN VOLUME AND VALUE OF GOODS, NOT PRICE.)

2. CUBAN VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE GERMAN AMADO-  
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BLANCO AT SIGNING CEREMONY CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS (REFTEL A AND PREVIOUS) THAT SOVIETS WILL PRVIDE CUBA IN 1978 A NUMBER OF GOODS NOT PREVIOUSLY DELIVERED. HE ONLY CITED TWO SPECIFIC EXAMPLES HOWEVER - MTZ 80 TRACTORS AND A LARGE TONNAGE BULK CARGO SHIP. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT CUBA HAS RECEIVED A LARGE AMOUNT OF SUGAR INDUSTRY MACHINERY FROM USSR.

3. WITH REGARD TO LAGGING SUGAR HARVEST, AMADO-BLANCO ASSERTED THAT CUBA DURING FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR HAS KET UP DELIVERY COMMITMENTS TO USSR. (COMMENT: REFTEL C REPORTS DELAYS IN DELIVERIES TO SOME EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES. GIVEN SIZE OF APPARENT SUGAR COMMITMENTS- SEE REFTEL B, CUBA MAY HAVE TO RENOGOTIATE DELIVERY SCHEDULES WITH SOVIETS AND SOME EE'S. GOOD WEATHER IN LAST WEEK OF APRIL, HOWEVER, HAS LED TO SOME RECUPERATION OF HARVEST LAG.)

4. AMADO-BLANCO ADDED THAT, AS A RESULT OF CUBAN-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE VOLUME FOR 1980 WILL BE ABOVE LEVEL FIXED IN 1976-1980 SOVIET-CUBAN AGREEMENT. (COMMENT: THIS MAY REFER TO "ADDITIONAL DELIVERIES" DISCUSSEDIN REFTEL A WHEREBY SOVIET GOODS PROVIDED THIS YEAR WILL BE COMPENSATED BY ADDITIONAL CUBAN SUGAR DELIVERIES IN 1979 OR, PERHAPS, 1980.)  
LANE

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## Message Attributes

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